storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (Pack Houses);

(iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP at export units;

(v) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits and floricultural products;

(vi) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/Modified Atmosphere technologies for increasing the shelf life and for transportation of perishable products such as mangoes and lychees;

(vii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;

(viii) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;

(ix) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control, packaging, transport etc.

Use of Chittagong Port for Development of NER

1860. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to Bangladesh Government to use the Chittagong port for the purpose of commercial development of North Eastern Region; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to Bangladesh Government for building an express highway connecting Tripura with West Bengal via Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The Government of India has made

proposals to the Government of Bangladesh for use of the facility of the Chittagong Port.

(b) No, Sir.

Decline in inflow of FDI

1861. MISS NABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Foreign Direct Investment inflow during the first four months of 1999-2000 was Rs. 1931 crores which is half of the inflow witnessed during the same period a year ago;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the FDI proposals cleared during the first four months also declined by 41 per cent;

(c) whether Government have any plan to remedy the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Sir, FDI investment inflow during the first four months of 1999-2000 and FDI proposal cleared for the corresponding period of 1998-1999 is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Total amount of Approvals	Inflow
1999 (Apr.-July)	5738.05	2880.15
1998 (Apr.-July)	11009.11	5417.84

(b) During the first four months of the current financial year 498 FDI proposals have been approved as compared to 450 FDI proposals during the corresponding period of the last financial year.

(c) and (d) The Government takes steps, on a continuous basis, to promote foreign investments such as:—

(i) Providing information regarding 'Projects on Offer' through Websites.